

# The Library Assistant :

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The second Joint-Meeting of the Session will be held at CANTON HALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W., on Wednesday, 10th November, at 7.30 p.m. punctually.

Mr. Evan G. Rees, President of the Library Assistants' Association, will preside, and the following paper will be read and discussed :—

“NOTES ON MATTERS CONNECTED WITH THE ORGANIZATION OF LIBRARIES.” By Thomas Aldred, Borough Librarian of Hackney.

This is the first of a series of what may not improperly be termed “At Home” gatherings, when formality will be largely dispensed with, and those present will endeavour to profit from the experience of each other. It is the aim of the Committee to promote general discussion, first by arranging for the introduction of a subject which lends itself to debate, then by encouraging members to ask questions or to voice their views. The subject provided for this particular meeting is one specially lending itself to this purpose, and Mr. Aldred's paper will not be found lacking in points calculated to stimulate the thoughts and opinions of those who listen to him. For those studying for the Professional Examinations the evening is likely to prove a most valuable occasion.

## NORTH EASTERN BRANCH.

The ANNUAL MEETING of the North Eastern Branch will be held at the NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE CENTRAL PUBLIC LIBRARY on WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10th, 1915, at 7 p.m.

Agenda :—Annual Report.

Election of new members.

Discussion on future policy.

Paper or address.

I. BRIGGS,

*Acting Hon. Sec. and Treas.*

## SOUTH COAST BRANCH.

The meeting it was hoped to arrange for November has had to be indefinitely postponed. This is a direct outcome of the war, as owing to further enlistments and the consequent depletions of the staffs, it is obvious that only a very few members would be able to attend.

In consequence of the absence of the Hon. Secretary (Mr. Arthur Webb) on service with 1st Home Counties Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, Miss Gerard has kindly undertaken the duties of Acting Hon. Secretary in addition to her present office of Hon. Treasurer of the Branch. All communications relating to the Branch should be addressed to Miss E. Gerard, Public Library, Worthing.

## EDITORIAL.

**War Changes.**—At its last meeting the Council decided that it would be fulfilling a useful purpose by collecting and placing on record particulars of changes in administration determined upon by library authorities either for purposes of economy or through staff difficulties. Rumours of all kinds are current: the closing of branches, curtailment of the hours of opening, reduction of book purchases, and decreases in the rate to be levied are some of the things reported, but investigation frequently proves them to be without foundation. The Honorary Secretary will, therefore, be pleased to receive brief reports of actual changes in any direction, together with a definite statement as to the reason for the change, i.e., whether it be for reasons of economy alone, or dictated through serious depletion of staff. The information will be published in *The Library Assistant*, and will serve as a useful guide for any who may be contemplating alterations.

**Further Editorial Changes.**—After an extremely brief term of office as Editor, Mr. J. E. Walker has resigned, having enlisted in the Army Ordnance Corps. Mr. Walker had already made several ineffectual attempts to enter the Army, and had concluded that it would be impossible for him to do so when he accepted the Council's invitation. An unexpected opportunity offered, however, and he rightly deemed it his duty not to let it pass; his resignation, therefore, was accepted at the last Council meeting, with an expression of sincere thanks for his valuable services during his Assistant Editorship as well as for the readiness with which he undertook the responsibilities of the chief office. The best wishes of all members are with him in his new sphere, as they are with all those now serving their Country with the Colours. Messrs. J. Warner and H. A. Sharp, of Croydon, have been elected as Joint-Editors, and the

Council has every confidence that the Association's Journal will be conducted with that signal ability which has characterised the work of previous holders of the office.

**Vacancy on the Council.**—Through the resignation of Mr. Cuthbert H. R. Peach, late of the Gray's Inn Library, who has left the profession, there is a vacancy on the Council for a London member. Nominations for the seat should reach the Honorary Secretary not later than Monday, 8th November, and the election will take place at the November monthly meeting. Mr. Peach's presence will be much missed: his interest in the Association, his general ability, and his personal charm were a combination of qualities the Council could ill afford to lose; the fates, however, have willed otherwise, but it may be said that the kind thoughts and good-will of all the members who had the advantage of his personal acquaintance will follow him in the new profession he has adopted. W.B.T.

#### L.A.A. ROLL OF HONOUR.

**Birmingham:** R. B. DAMS (14th Royal Warwickshire Regt.).

◊ **Bradford:** R. W. PARSONS (East Lancashire Royal Engineers).

**Brighton:** A. WEBB (3rd Brigade, 1st Home Counties Brigade, Royal Field Artillery); ERNEST MALE (1st Sussex Regt., Royal Garrison Artillery); G. CRONE (Army Service Corps).

**East Ham:** B. J. FROST (Army Ordnance Corps).

**London: St. Bride Institute:** W. T. BERRY (R.A.M.C.).

**Tottenham:** J. E. WALKER (Army Ordnance Corps).

All members of the L.A.A.

We regret to record the death of Mr. H. J. Turner (Westminster), who was killed in action on September 25th, while serving with the 18th County of London Regiment (London Irish). Mr. Turner is the second member of the Westminster Libraries Staff to lay down his life for his country.

Mr. R. W. Parsons, the Secretary of the L.A.A. Yorkshire Branch, is one of the latest to have his name enrolled on the L.A.A. Roll of Honour. His enlistment will come as a great surprise to many members of the Yorkshire Branch, and while those intimately associated with him have been able to gauge the trend of his thoughts for some considerable time, none were prepared for the sudden resolve and the equally sudden enlistment. On this point he has written, "The quietude and hurry of my enlistment must ever remain a mystery: it is one of those things one cannot explain. I felt the pull and I went with it. . . . Some day in the future I hope to return to the many duties I relinquished so reluctantly—to return with renewed spirit and vigour." And so hope all of us. Until his return the Yorkshire meetings will be considerably poorer by the loss of his genial presence and good-natured witticisms, while the Branch loses a very able secretary. J.C.H.

### LIBRARIES IN BUSINESS HOUSES.

*The substance of an address by MR. FRANK CHITHAM, a Director of the Firm of Messrs. Selfridge & Co., Ltd., at a joint meeting of the Library Association and Library Assistants' Association, held on October 13th, 1915.*

Ever since mankind has been able to express his thoughts in writing, whether on clay tablets, parchment or leather, he has gathered his writings together into what we may call libraries. This was probably done for many reasons. The process of the production of books or manuscripts was necessarily slow. To-day a man may be a writer and never put pen to paper, but in those far off days one needed not only to think out the matter which one wished to express in writing, but had to do that writing oneself. In short, one had to be a craftsman as well as a writer. The scarcity of books and the difficulty of their production made it desirable that they should be brought together, in order that their contents might be more readily accessible to those who were interested.

It is interesting to note that the first library of which we have any record at all, some 4,000 years before Christ, was also a public library. On one of the tablets, now preserved in the British Museum, is part of the bequest of the King, which says that this library shall be for the use of his subjects for all time. Early libraries, too, were in a sense technical libraries, wherein were recorded the slow and laborious methods by which the ancients learned their first rudiments of science. The writers then belonged to one class, they were entirely of the priesthood, they kept the archives of the Government and recorded scientific discoveries. These discoveries and inventions were largely and necessarily of a purely practical character, and it is in the practical sense that I want to consider libraries for a few minutes to-night.

We business men envy you ladies and gentlemen your more leisured life and the opportunities it affords for intellectual pleasures, particularly when those intellectual luxuries become part, as they do, of your daily duties. But as business men, we have little time for the indulgence of reading for purely intellectual pleasure. I do not wish to convey for one moment an impression that intellectual pleasures are shut out from the lives of business men and women, but only that they must find a different expression, and the pleasure that is denied us to which I have just referred is found in our business itself—in our daily work. Business to-day, taken seriously, means a very strenuous life, and if we are going to get what we should rightly expect from our business, then we have to try to develop a view-point which will help us to attain that object. We realise that before

one can get very much pleasure from one's work one must have a thorough knowledge of the work in hand. From interest comes a desire for knowledge, and with knowledge a greater degree of intelligence and pleasure from the work in which we are engaged.

It seems to me that readers as a whole may roughly be divided into three classes: (1) Those who read with some practical object in view; (2) those who read merely for pleasure—as a pastime; and (3) those who read for the intellectual delight of reading. Certainly business men cannot claim to belong to either of the two latter classes—I think they rightly belong to the first. By reading for practical purposes I do not mean that it becomes necessary and is any part of the reader's intention merely to read those things which will bring him pecuniary gain—that would be indeed a debasing end to have in view. In business our great aim and object is to eliminate wasted effort, and we must apply this principle to our reading. For reasons which I will explain presently it would be largely wasted effort to spend much of our scanty leisure time in reading works of a technical nature. The knowledge which we as merchants wish to acquire is the knowledge of the merchandise which we distribute, and when I tell you that there is hardly a spot of the civilised, or, indeed, uncivilised, world that does not contribute something to the contents of this building, you will realise how wide our range of possibilities becomes. From the furs of the Arctic to the spices of the Indies; from the corn-fields of Canada to the pastures of New Zealand, one must have some knowledge—and more than a passing knowledge—of the goods with which they supply us. But, obviously, we cannot have a complete technical knowledge of the various processes of the manufacture of the many thousands of articles which we sell, and we do not try very hard to acquire this technical knowledge. We are more concerned—indeed, almost solely concerned—with a complete and thorough knowledge of the finished article. It may seem to you that it is impossible to have a working knowledge of the finished article without knowing with some degree of thoroughness the various manufacturing processes that are necessary to its production. Let me show you how impossible it would be to hope to become really expert in the commonest things that we handle. Let us take, for example, a piece of scarlet flannel. If we are to know everything that must be known about this flannel before it can be produced we could not compress that knowledge into a dozen lifetimes, to say nothing of one. A complete knowledge would begin with the farmer in far-off Australia who grows the wool.

He will have to determine what kind of wool he shall grow; he has to decide whether it will pay him best to grow his sheep for the carcase, or to grow them for the wool; he must weigh the chances in time of drought of killing off his sheep, and so at least getting something, against the chances of keeping them and possibly being ruined by a prolonged drought. After the sheep is clipped and the wool is baled, it is sent to the broker, and the broker decides whether it shall be offered for local auction or whether it shall be sent to the great Wool Market of London. He decides how it shall be offered, whether it is going to pay the farmer better to sell or to hold, and this is a large and important industry in itself. After the wool is sold it goes to the comber, who cleans, scours and combs it in readiness for the spinner. This is a trade in itself, and the most important part of the processes of manufacture. Then the wool is sent to the spinner, who spins it into yarns in readiness for the weaver. The spinner has to decide the kind of yarn that is likely to be most remunerative to him, he has to know what the world's demands for yarns are at the time, he has to know all about the strength of yarns, and a dozen and one other technicalities in connection with the spinning business. The spinner sells his yarns to the weaver. The weaver makes them into every variety of woollen fabric from the fine cashmere to heavy blanket cloth. A knowledge of the weaving of patterns and designs, how the loom is set up, etc., is work involving years of study. It is a self-contained and highly technical business. After the weaver has finished the cloth it is sent to the dyer, and we are realising at this moment as we have never realised before, what an extremely difficult and highly technical business dyeing is. Since this unhappy war with Germany there has been a shortage of dyes, which we, with all our effort and all our knowledge have been unable to make good. Finally, we get the finished article, and it is here that our real interest in the article begins.

You will see from the hurried sketch that I have given you of the manufacturing processes of merely one article, how impossible it would be for us to hope to learn or to gain more than a superficial knowledge of the varying processes of manufacture. We have a small reference library, in which books dealing with these technical processes are kept, but we find that they are very little used indeed, and I am really not surprised that they are not used more. When one remembers the conditions under which we work it is almost too much to expect that after many hours of strenuous work one is going to take up a heavy technical book for the purpose of studying manufacturing details. We do not expect it, and hence, we do not provide

very amply for a big library of books on these subjects. Our interests, as I have said, are mainly centred in the finished article, and it is here that we expect our salespeople to be proficient—we expect them to know the various characteristics of the goods they sell and the best purpose for which each is suited. They must know these things more than superficially. We know quite well, for instance, that it is impossible for patent leather to be manufactured that will not crack, and it is part of our service to tell the customer that irrespective of price there is no patent leather in the world which is not liable to crack when the boot gets into use. Again, there is no such thing in the world as an absolutely waterproof garment. It is entirely a question of degree. This and similar information is filed in our various departments for reference by the staff. We call this information "Selling points," and it is the means of valuable education to our staff, and of assistance to our customers. Information such as this is not found in text books—if it were we would gladly supply them to our staff. As a matter of fact, it cannot be prepared in any permanent form, because the conditions governing merchandising are constantly changing, and it is to meet these changing conditions, to keep us quickly informed, that our great trade papers have been established, and it is here that we look for the most useful results from what may be called our trade library. We subscribe for no less than 86 copies of trade papers, covering and dealing with 24 trades.

Our experience is, I find, similar to that of other great houses where the staff lives out. In places where the staff lives in, house libraries are provided, usually of good standard fiction, and some technical works. The former are freely used, but there is little demand for literature of a heavier kind. In America a more ample provision is made. The libraries are larger and contain a good collection of works dealing with the manufacture of the various products sold. The American stores are proud of their house libraries, but, without being unkind, I think it is a pride of possession rather than of usefulness. As lending libraries they are little used, but the books are freely used in connection with the educational systems that are operative in the great stores. In Wanamaker's, Philadelphia, for instance, whose school is now a branch of the American University of Trade and Applied Commerce, these text books are used by the teachers to illustrate the various points in connection with the merchandise that is sold. They are of very great value in this respect, and I think in this direction lies the future of technical libraries in business houses, both in this country and in America.

## SPECIAL REFERENCE WORK AND THE MUNICIPAL REFERENCE LIBRARY.

By WYNDHAM MORGAN, Cardiff Public Libraries.

(*Concluded.*)

The public reference librarian will point out that such work is already being done. If it were necessary I could supply examples, but this is not needed as it is a recognised part of the work. In fact there is no movement of ideas in the community that does not, at some time, turn to the reference library, if the library is a progressive one. But in the matter of municipal reference the demands made at present are comparatively slight. This is not altogether to be deplored as there are difficulties in the way of obtaining the best results. The provision of special collections is needed to give the necessary facilities, and with this will come the adequate financial provision, and a clear recognition of the value of such work.

Special conditions have gone to the making of the American municipal reference libraries. The various civic associations and reform movements have played a large part. Electioneering is more strenuous in American towns, and in many cases the town Boards are engaged in building up of new towns and public utility works. The initiative in the development of these libraries has therefore to a large extent come from outside the library movement. In 1910 the following suggestions were made by the National Municipal League (U.S.A.): (1) That municipal reference libraries should be established in all large cities; (2) that as a general rule such libraries should be under the control of the public library; (3) that such libraries should be located in the City Hall where feasible. When the time came for organising the libraries, public librarians took up the work, and where such collections are not deposited in the public reference library they are worked in connection with it. Provision has also been made for the training of municipal librarians. Last year a Municipal Library course was held at the Library School of the New York Public Library. The subjects included in the course were:—Municipal Reference library administration; the Organisation of city government; Municipal bibliography; Municipal finance; and other allied topics.

The New York Municipal Library is an interesting example of this type and well worth a little attention. It was established by the City Comptroller in 1913 with a stock of 5,000 books and pamphlets, the greater part of which came from the shelves of the other city departments. The founder, in his address at the opening ceremony, defines in a clear and precise



way the purpose which he had in establishing the library. He points out that "This municipal reference library should be a 'fact centre.' To it public officials, public employees, civic organisations and citizens generally, should be able to appeal for information on any subject that may reasonably be considered within the domain of municipal performance."

At Toronto the idea of a special library was presented by the Mayor. It was added to the public library system as a "Municipal Reference Branch" in 1911, and located in the City Hall. The Branch not only acts as a municipal reference library, but also as a clearing house for information on municipal affairs and as a quick reference library. It is open to all citizens and is in telephonic communication with the central reference library. The collection includes (according to the *Toronto Bulletin*) reports of other cities; the latest books dealing with the development of municipal government; the progress of all sciences necessary to greater efficiency in the various departments of civic effort; and also periodicals dealing with municipal affairs.

It does not follow, of course, that because the municipal reference library is found to meet a public need in America we should follow suit, but it is of importance that if such a need exists it should be met. The work of the public library should be linked up in a systematic manner with that of the other civic departments. It is no unusual thing to find that council members and even officials do not appreciate that public library work is a necessity to the real welfare of the community. Expert special reference work takes such men on their own ground and provides the business facts that appeal to them, and for which they are often very grateful afterwards. From a professional point of view the main thing is to study what is being done elsewhere, and then if it becomes necessary, to adopt the best features. In this connection there is an apt phrase of Arnold's which runs that "ideas rule the world all the better for a little maturing."

To "rush in where angels fear to tread" is not an English characteristic. Perhaps the general tendency is in the other direction, with the result that the line of least resistance is taken, and little progress made. In this short account I have drawn attention to some of the current ideas and methods in special reference work, mainly with a view to the appreciation of whatever merits they may have. So far as they represent improvement and progression in reference work their adoption should be certain. The times are out of joint it is true, but they cannot remain so for ever. It is well within the bounds of probability that the public library will be an important factor in

establishing a new order of things in which research work and intellectual development will take their just place.

## PROCEEDINGS.

The Twenty-first Inaugural Meeting of the Library Assistants' Association, and the first of the joint meetings arranged for this Session in conjunction with the Library Association, was held at the premises of Messrs. Selfridge and Co., Ltd., Oxford Street, W., on Wednesday, October 13th. About 80 members of the two Associations and friends assembled to hear the address on "Libraries in Business Houses," which was to have been delivered by Mr. H. Gordon Selfridge, but which, owing to Mr. Selfridge's absence in America, was given by Mr. Frank Chitham, a Director of the famous firm.

Mr. Henry R. Tedder presided, and in his opening remarks stated that it was a unique experience to have the opportunity at one of their meetings of listening to such a distinguished man of business. He expressed the view that Mr. Chitham would be found a capable substitute for Mr. Selfridge, and this prediction was more than justified. Some notes of Mr. Chitham's address are printed in this issue.

A healthy discussion was opened by Mr. W. G. Chambers (Woolwich), and carried on by Messrs. J. Warner (Croydon), W. B. Thorne (Poplar), L. Stanley Jast (Croydon), and by some members of the staff of Messrs. Selfridge and Co., including Mr. Aldridge (Educational Manager), and Mr. Gouldstone (Bookselling Department).

Mr. Chambers admitted his regret that no library was in existence at Selfridge's. The question divided itself into two parts: the establishment of libraries for the use and instruction of the staff, and the provision of technical books for the use of the administration. A trained librarian would so organise a technical library that a director desiring information on any subject could, by telephoning to the librarian, obtain it in a few minutes. The idea of business libraries had taken root in America, and trained librarians were being appointed.

Mr. Jast, proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Chitham, said that when he suggested to the Publications Committee of the Library Association a discussion on this topic, he felt that if libraries existed to any extent in the business houses of London, one of the best would be found at Messrs. Selfridge's. He was disappointed to find that a library did not exist there. That there was no demand was no reason why libraries should not be provided; he would supply the libraries and thus create the demand. He regretted that the establishment of the large store

meant the passing away of the small shopkeeper, whose personality, knowledge of his particular customers, and of the merits and characteristics of the goods he sold, were such valuable assets. The big store had come to stay, however, and the staffs should know all about the goods they handled.

Mr. E. G. Rees (Westminster; President of the L.A.A.) seconded the vote of thanks, which was carried by acclamation.

Mr. Chitham, in reply, said Mr. Jast had hit upon one of the most difficult problems which the large stores had to face—that of giving a personality to each department. To endeavour to achieve this end, Messrs. Selfridge had organised for their staff a series of lectures which dealt with practically all branches of merchandise supplied by their house.

#### NORTH-WESTERN BRANCH.

##### ANNUAL MEETING AT DARWEN.

The First Annual Meeting of the North-Western Branch was held, by kind permission of the Library and Museum Committee, at the Public Library, Darwen, on Wednesday, September 15th.

The members assembled at the Public Library, where they were received by Mr. Pomfret, and shortly afterwards proceeded for a ramble through Sunnyside Wood and Bold Venture Park, under the guidance of Mr. N. Jepson, Vice-Chairman of the Library Committee, and Mr. Pomfret. After a brief inspection of the Library the members were entertained to tea by Mr. and Mrs. Pomfret, and heartily welcomed to Darwen by Mr. N. Jepson and Dr. Ballantyne, members of the Library Committee. On the motion of Mr. JAMES HUTT, M.A., and Mr. JAMES HINDLE, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the host and hostess. In reply, Mr. POMFRET said he was pleased to have the Assistants' Association holding a meeting in Darwen and he hoped that the proceedings would be gone through in such fashion as would make their visit a pleasant memory. He congratulated the Association on the work it had accomplished during the year, and wished it continued success. There were difficult times ahead; at the present moment national committees were using libraries for purposes of informing and steadying public opinion in matters relative to the war, to help recruiting, and for urging the claims and advantages of the National War Loans, whilst on the other hand an important Government department had pointed to libraries, with some other things, as a civic activity which should have its resources cut down. He was wholeheartedly in favour of economy in public and private life, wherever it could be practised without impairing

necessary efficiency, or where the luxuries of life were concerned, but any drastic cutting down of the income of the libraries of the country would be the greatest mistake possible in this hour of the country's need. Libraries were not luxuries but a very necessary machine for doing a certain kind of work which no other organisation, new or old, could perform so well, and at such little cost to the country. The need and the success of the library movement of Great Britain had been amply justified and proved in the present war. Referring to the qualifications of a librarian, Mr. Pomfret agreed with Edwards that he must be a lover of books, a man of methodical habits and of an organising mind, of genial temper and a courteous demeanour. These things were still the bedrock of the qualifications of the librarian; they were not so easy of attainment as they seemed at first blush. Yet what one lacked in inherent knowledge could be accomplished by good training on the one hand, and perseverance and a receptive mind on the other.

At the business meeting which followed, the Annual Report was presented and adopted. The retiring officers and members of Committee were re-elected, and to the two newly created positions on the Committee Miss Cross (Manchester) and Mr. R. G. Williams (Bolton) were elected. During the absence of Mr. Maurice J. Wrigley on active service Mr. T. A. Barnett, University Library, Manchester, kindly consented to act as Hon. Treasurer of the Branch.

The HON. PRESIDENT (Mr. James Hutt, M.A.), in a short address, gave an interesting resumé of the results of the recommendations of the Special Education Enquiry Committee of the Library Association. The circular sent out to all libraries asking for information as to the use of certificates had brought in various replies and revealed curious methods in many libraries when appointments or promotions were being made. It had also brought out the desire that exists in many parts of the country for organised classes in the subjects of the examinations; failing such, there was a desire for correspondence tuition. The conduct of the examinations, the system of teaching, and the final diploma, were dealt with, the decisions of the Council on each point being given and explained. The facts that a local Education Committee of the North Western Branch had been formed at the request of the Library Association, and that this Committee were about to consider the question of forming classes in various districts to prepare junior assistants for the Preliminary examination now required, were announcements which were specially welcomed by the meeting. Mr. Hutt closed by advising all present to take the examinations, as it was evident that candidates holding L.A. certificates were being

preferred when appointments were made. As the outcome of a spirited discussion, in which Messrs. ASHTON, EDGE, HINDLE, HOLGATE, MERRISHAW, POMFRET, and MISS QUINN took part, the following resolutions were carried unanimously :—

1. " That owing to the lack of facilities for oral instruction, the N.W. Branch of the L.A.A. respectfully urges the Council of the Library Association to arrange Correspondence Classes in every section of the professional syllabus, irrespective of the number of students enrolled in any subject."
2. " That the N.W. Branch of the L.A.A. respectfully urges the Council of the Library Association to hold the professional examinations at intervals of six months instead of annually, as hitherto."
3. " That the N.W. Branch of the L.A.A. respectfully urges the Council of the Library Association to announce the subjects of essays to be written for the examinations in the syllabus of the examinations, and not a few months before the examinations, as hitherto."

Mr. R. G. WILLIAMS (Bolton) followed with an admirable paper on " The Importance of book selection," which we hope to publish in an early issue of our journal, and this in turn evoked considerable discussion and praise.

With votes of thanks to Mr. POMFRET and the DARWEN COMMITTEE, and to the readers of papers, a meeting full of interest and pleasure terminated.

#### NORTH WESTERN BRANCH: ANNUAL REPORT.

The Committee has pleasure in submitting its report on the work of the Branch during its first session.

*Membership.*—The total membership of the Branch is 70, comprising 5 Fellows, 31 Members, and 34 Associates. So large a membership during the first year's existence of a Branch of the L.A.A., has not previously been recorded. Several members, including the Hon. Treasurer, are now serving with the Colours, and in accordance with the Council's resolution they are elected Honorary Members during the duration of the war.

*Meetings.*—Following on the Preliminary Meeting held at the LIVERPOOL LIBRARY (Lyceum), at which Messrs. Pepper and Peppiette contributed interesting papers, successful meetings have been held as below :—

November, 4, 1914.—STOCKPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY.

*Inaugural Meeting.*

Address: The Place of our profession to-day and to-morrow, by W. C. Berwick Sayers, F.L.A.

Paper: The Essentials of good book production, by James Hutt, M.A., Honorary President.

February 17, 1915.—ROCHDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Discussion of subjects set for Essays in connection with the L.A. Examinations, 1915:

Leaders: Section 3—James Hindle.

Section 4—Frank Helliwell.

Section 5—Maurice J. Wrigley.

Section 6—Eric A. Peppiette.

June 2, 1915.—BOLTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

*Papers:*

Revival of printing, illustrated by private press books in the Central Reference Library, Bolton, by T. W. Wright.

Form Classification, by H. Hamer.

Papers for book production, by J. L. Davison.

September 15, 1915.—DARWEN PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Brief address, by J. Pomfret, F.L.A.

The L.A. Education Committee's Report on the professional examinations, by James Hutt, M.A.

The Importance of book selection, by R. G. Williams.

Full accounts of these meetings have appeared in *The Library Assistant* and other professional journals, and it is pleasing to report satisfactory attendances on all occasions. The standard of the papers has been uniformly high, and the discussions have proved both interesting and profitable. It is not the intention of the Committee to confine the contributions to technical subjects, and arrangements are being made for the inclusion of attractive literary topics during the coming session.

*Finance.*—The Honorary Treasurer's financial statement shows that our expenditure has exceeded our income by 6s. 6d. This deficit, however, has happily been met by donations from the Vice-Presidents.

*Resignations.*—The following members have resigned during the year in consequence of appointments to libraries outside the North Western area:—F. W. C. Pepper, W. Hynes, H. Edge, and J. L. Davison; and to these members the Committee extends its warmest congratulations. In accordance with the rule of the L.A.A., Miss M. J. Hendry and Mr. J. Fielding ceased to be members of the Branch on leaving the profession.

*Acknowledgments.*—The thanks of the Committee are due to all the Librarians who have enthusiastically supported the work of the Branch, and to the various members who have kindly contributed papers. The Branch is specially indebted to the following gentlemen for permission to visit their Libraries :

James Hutt, Esq., M.A., Liverpool Library.

Richard Hargreaves, Esq., Stockport.

R. J. Gordon, Esq., Rochdale.

A. Sparke, Esq., Bolton.

J. Pomfret, Esq., Darwen.

*L.A.A. Council.*—Your Hon. Secretary has been re-elected a member of the Council of the L.A.A., and Mr. Eric A. Peppiette has been appointed Branch representative.

*Conclusion.*—In spite of difficulties largely attributable to the war, the Branch has accomplished much useful work, and has fully justified its formation. The enthusiastic support of all members during the coming session is earnestly solicited.

On behalf of the Committee,

JAMES HUTT, President.

JAMES HINDLE, Chairman.

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## NORTH EASTERN BRANCH.

## STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR 1914-15.

RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Subscriptions:—			Proportion of Subscriptions sent to Hon.		
Fellow ... ..	...	0 7 6	Treasurer, L. A. A.,		
Members ... ..	...	5 0 0	London ... ..	5 10 0	
Associates ... ..	...	3 0 0	N.E. Branch Treasurer's		
			Expenditure ... ..	0 16 9	
			N.E. Branch Secretary's		
			Expenditure, etc. ...	0 6 6	
			Balance ... ..	1 14 3	
	£8	7 6		£8	7 6

Audited and found correct, October 1st, 1915,

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## NEW MEMBERS.

**North Western Branch:** Associates: Miss B. Peneook (Wallasey); G. R. Axon (Manchester); N. J. Entwisle (Bolton).

**South Coast Branch:** Associates: Misses G. L. Bessant and May I. Wyatt (Winchester).

**West of Scotland Branch:** Members: J. Keith (Maryhill); J. Searson (Hutchesontown). Associates: Misses I. S. Black (Stirling's Library); E. Blair (Stirling's Library); C. S. Ferguson (Langside); F. E. Fettes (Parkhead); G. C. M. Henderson (Superintendent's Department, Glasgow); M. Howden (Superintendent's Department, Glasgow); M. McCallum (Parkhead); A. J. McCulloch (Hutchesontown); H. K. Macdonald (Superintendent's Department, Glasgow); B. G. Marshall (Hutchesontown); M. Ratray (Stirling's Library); L. Smith (Superintendent's Department, Glasgow); C. M. Thomson (Superintendent's Department, Glasgow); J. Thornton (Stirling's Library); C. D. Torrance (Possilpark); M. M. Torrance (Springburn); F. York (Greenock).